United Nations E/C.2/2002/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 April 2002

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2002 regular session
13-24 May and 29-30 May 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.
4. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
5. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31;
   (c) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group;
   (d) Other related matters.
6. Implementation of Council decision 1996/302.

* The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

02-35288 (E) 300402

7. Review of deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council.

8. Consideration of special reports.

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2003 session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Committee elects its Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairperson is usually re-elected for another year. In accordance with rule 19, Bureau members are eligible for re-election. One of the Vice-Chairpersons is later designated also to serve as Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Committee shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda for the present session was approved by the Council in its decision 2001/297.

In accordance with Council resolution 1996/31, paragraph 32 (a), and rule 84 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the following NGOs in consultative status with the Council have requested to be heard by the Council in connection with items contained in the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2002 (E/2002/100):

High-level segment (The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development)

Medecins du monde (general consultative status since 1996)

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (general consultative status since 2000)

International Scientific and Educational "Znanie" Association (general consultative status since 1993)

Soroptimist International (general consultative status since 1984)

World Assembly of Youth (general consultative status since 1950)

International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University (general consultative status since 1999)

Coordination segment (Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration)

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative relationship with the United Nations (general consultative status since 2001)

General segment

Provisional agenda item 7 (c), "International cooperation in the field of informatics"

International Telecommunication Academy (general consultative status since 2001)

Documentation

E/C.2/2002/CRP.4

3. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

In view of the continued expansion of the functions and responsibilities of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat to meet the demand of a growing number of applications for consultative status, as well as the diverse, more substantive demands of a larger and more active non-governmental organizations community, the Committee decided, at its 2001 substantive session, that the strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section should become a priority during its 2002 session and reaffirmed its strong support to the ongoing process of strengthening the Section.

Documentation

An analysis of the workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section will be provided to the Committee by the Secretariat

4. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

(a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee

The Committee will consider applications and requests for reclassification deferred from the sessions of previous years.

Documentation

Deferred applications for consultative status with the Council: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2002/CRP.1)

Deferred requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2002/CRP.3)

(b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

The Committee will consider new applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification from NGOs and act thereon.

Documentation

New applications for consultative status: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2002/R.2 and R.2/Add.1-5)

New requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2002/R.3)

5. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations

At its 2001 resumed session, the Committee adopted a new application form for NGOs requesting consultative status with the Council.

The Committee also decided that this sub-item would remain on its agenda and that the Committee would continue to consider, time permitting, the issue of the accreditation of representatives of NGOs and their participation in the work of the United Nations.

(b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31

At its 2001 session, the Committee reviewed the issue of NGOs whose defining characteristics are not considered by the Committee to be in strict conformity with Council resolution 1996/31, namely, commercial/industrial, professional, religious, research/education and Government-funded organizations. The Committee has made substantive progress in clearing the backlog of applications from previous years. On the recommendation of the Chairman during the 2001 session, it has been agreed that the Committee, in its decision-making and the future consideration of this issue, could make use of paragraphs 1, 2 and 8 of Council resolution 1996/31.

The Committee will consider the remaining five applications for consultative status of NGOs that have been placed in this category. This issue has also been put on the agenda of the informal working group.

Documentation

Compilation of applications for consultative status of non-governmental organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2001/CRP.8)

(c) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group

At its 2000 session, the Committee established an informal working group, open to all interested members of the Committee, to review its methods of work, including accreditation issues, procedures, coordination with the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, enhancement of the non-governmental organizations information process and security issues. At its 2001 session, the Committee decided

to review, at its 2002 session, all issues which have been placed on the agenda of the informal working group.

The Secretariat will report to the Committee on the subject.

(d) Other related matters

The Committee will review the requests of several NGOs to resign their consultative status with the Council.

The Secretariat will provide to the Committee written communications from the organizations concerned.

The Committee will also consider any matter of interest related to the review of the methods of work under this sub-item.

6. Implementation of Council decision 1996/302

In its decision 2001/295, the Council, recalling its decision 1996/302, decided that the NGOs on the Roster of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see Council decision 1993/220) should apply for consultative status with the Council as would any other organization, as outlined in its resolution 1996/31. Those applications would be considered as expeditiously as possible under an agenda item of the Committee.

Documentation

Implementation of Council decision 2001/295: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2002/R.4)

7. Review of deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council

In accordance with the arrangements for consultation with NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Council that were approved by the Council in its resolution 1996/31, such organizations are required to submit, every fourth year, a report on their activities as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. After examining the reports, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in the status of the NGOs concerned that it deems appropriate.

The Committee will consider pending quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs on their activities during the periods 1994-1997, 1995-1998, 1996-1999 and 1997-2000.

Documentation

Compilation of 39 deferred quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2002/CRP.2)

8. Consideration of special reports

At its 2001 regular session, the Committee reviewed the special report of United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation and decided to defer consideration of the matter to its 2002 regular session.

At its 2001 resumed session, the Committee reviewed the special report of Freedom House and decided to defer consideration of the matter pending the response of the

NGO to further questions posed by the Committee. The Committee also reviewed the special reports of five other NGOs, and agreed that the special reports of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and Women's Human Rights International Association are still pending; decided that New Human Rights and the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples should submit additional special reports to the Committee at its 2002 regular session; and requested France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterand to submit a special report on the position of the NGO regarding China's sovereignty over Tibet.

Documentation

E/C.2/2001/3 and Add.1 and Add.2

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2003 session of the Committee

In its resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit at each session of a subsidiary body of the Council a draft provisional agenda for its following session, together with information relating to documentation.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee

The Committee is required to adopt its report for submission to the Council.